

Federal Emergency Management Agency

§ 152.4

dispatch centers or communication infrastructure. Examples of these include 911 systems, computer-aided dispatch systems, global positioning systems, towers, fixed repeaters, etc.

New mission is a first-responder function that a department has never delivered in the past or that was once delivered but has since been abandoned by the department due to the lack of funding or community support. Examples include technical search and rescue, emergency medical services, hazardous materials response, etc. A new mission does not include services already provided from existing facilities. Opening additional stations to provide similar services would be considered an expansion of existing services.

Population means permanent residents in the first-due response area or jurisdiction served by the applicant. It does not include seasonal population or any population in area that the fire department responds to under mutual/automatic aid agreements.

Prop is something that can be held up in a classroom or moved from site to site in order to facilitate or enhance the training experience. A training tower (pre-fabricated or constructed) is not a prop.

Renovation means changes or alterations or modifications to an existing structure that do not exceed either \$10,000 or 50 percent of the value of the structure and do not involve a change in the footprint or profile of the structure.

State means any of the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Supplies means any expendable property that typically has a one-time use limit and an expectation of being replaced within one year.

Vehicle is a mechanized device used for carrying passengers, goods, or equipment. Examples of vehicles include, but are not limited to: pumpers, brush trucks, tankers, tenders, attack pumpers, rescue (transport and non-transport), ambulances, foam units, quints, aerials, ladders, towers, hazmat vehicles, squads, crash rescue (ARFF), boats, hovercraft, planes, and helicopters.

Volunteer Department is a fire suppression agency or organization in which no active firefighters are considered full-time employees, and which no members receive financial compensation for their services rendered on behalf of the department other than life/health insurance, workers' compensation insurance, length of service awards, pay per-call or per-hour, or similar token compensation.

§ 152.3 Availability of funds.

(a) Fire departments that have received funding under the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program in previous years are eligible to apply for funding in the current year. No applicant can receive more than \$750,000 in Federal grant funds under this program in any fiscal year. The awards made under the Assistance to Firefighter Grant Program are for one year only. The period of performance will be detailed in the award documents provided each grantee.

(b) The scoring of the applications will determine the distribution of the funding among the eligible programs. Notwithstanding anything in this part, no more than 25 percent of the grant funds shall be used to assist recipients to purchase firefighting vehicles and not less than 5 percent of all funds appropriated for firefighter assistance shall be available for fire prevention programs.

(c) We will not provide assistance under this part for activities for which another Federal agency has more specific or primary authority to provide assistance for the same purpose. We may disallow or recoup amounts that fall within other Federal agency's authority.

§ 152.4 Roles and responsibilities.

(a) Applicants must:

- (1) Complete the application and certify to the accuracy of the application;
- (2) Certify that they are an eligible applicant, i.e., a fire department, as defined in this rule;
- (3) Certify as to the characteristics of their community, i.e., urban, suburban, or rural;
- (4) Certify to the size of the population of the community served; and,

(5) Certify to the type of department, i.e., volunteer/combination or career.

(b) Recipients (Grantees) must agree to:

(1) Share in the costs of the projects funded under this grant program. Fire departments in areas serving populations over 50,000 must agree to match the Federal grant funds with an amount of non-Federal funds equal to 30 percent (30%) of the total project cost. Fire departments serving areas with a population of 50,000 or less will have to match the Federal grant funds with an amount of non-Federal funds equal to 10 percent (10%) of the total project cost. All cost-share contributions must be cash. No “in-kind” contributions will be considered for the statutorily required cost-share. No waivers of this requirement will be granted except for fire departments of Insular Areas as provided for in 48 U.S.C. 1469a.

(2) Maintain operating expenditures in the areas funded by this grant activity at a level equal to or greater than the average of their operating expenditures in the two years preceding the year in which this assistance is received.

(3) Retain grant files and supporting documentation for three years after the conclusion of the grant.

(4) Report to FEMA on the progress made on the grant and financial status of the grant.

(5) Make their grant files, books and records available if requested for an audit to ensure compliance with any requirement of the grant program.

(6) Provide information to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA) national fire incident reporting system (NFIRS) for the period covered by the assistance. If a grantee does not currently participate in the incident reporting system and does not have the capacity to report at the time of the award, that grantee must agree to provide information to the system for a twelve-month period commencing as soon as they develop the capacity to report.

(c) *FEMA activities:* (1) We will ensure that the funds are awarded based on the priorities and expected benefits articulated in the statute, this part 152, and USFA’s strategic plan. USFA’s operational and performance objectives

of its strategic plan are to reduce losses of life and reduce economic losses due to fire and related emergencies. Specific target groups are children under 14 years old, seniors over 65 years old, and firefighters.

(2) We will ensure that not more than twenty-five percent (25%) of the appropriated funding will be used to purchase firefighting vehicles.

(3) We will ensure that not less than five percent (5%) of the appropriated funds are made available to national, State, local, or community organizations, including fire departments, for the purpose of carrying out fire prevention programs.

(4) We will ensure that fire departments with volunteer staff, or staff comprised of a combination of career fire fighters and volunteers, receive a proportion of the total grant funding that is not less than the proportion of the United States population that those firefighting departments protect.

(5) We will ensure that grants are made to fire departments located in urban, suburban, and rural communities.

(6) We will strive to ensure geographic diversity of awards as stipulated in §152.6.

§ 152.5 Review process and evaluation criteria.

(a) We will use the narratives/supplemental information provided by the applicants in their grant applications to evaluate, on a competitive basis, the merits and benefits of each request for funding. In selecting applications for award, we will evaluate each application for assistance independently based on established eligibility criteria, the program priorities, the financial needs of the applicant, and an analysis of the benefits that would result from the grant award. Every application will be evaluated based on the answers to the activity-specific questions during our initial screening. The applications that are determined to best address the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program’s established priorities during this initial screening will be in the “competitive range” and subject to a second level of review.

(b)(1) In order to be successful at this level of the evaluation, an applicant